

*Sermon from the Second Sunday after Epiphany: Marriage, Part 3*

February 11, 2018

Our Lord was present at the wedding because He and His mother were invited. Couples getting married and families have to remember to invite our Lord to be part of their family. If He is given central place in the home, He will also help the family to carry the burdens of daily life. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light," says our Lord (Matthew 11:30) because He helps us to carry them.

Fulton J. Sheen speaks in "Three to Get Married" of the three tensions in love that are present in every marriage. The first is the tension between the body and the spirit. Love craves for unity. While two spirits can be easily united, the material bodies, which cannot occupy the same space at the same time, are not capable of the same unity as the spirit. We are, however, both body and spirit, and so there is a certain tension that results. Love desires permanent union, not capable by the body but desired by the soul.

This tension is resolved through the begetting of offspring, where the child becomes a bond of unity outside the mother and father. The parents cooperate with God in begetting a new human being, which child is a permanent expression of their love for one another.

Another tension in married love arises between the individual person and humanity. Married love is very personal and private, and it should remain that way, and yet with the bringing forth of children, there is the social aspect of married life also. Fulton Sheen reduces this tension down to the personal nature of love itself and the act which one appropriates for the generation of offspring.

This tension is, of course, resolved through the begetting of children when the couple fully cooperates with the Creator. The tension will increase when the begetting of children is not desired or even blocked. Our society today with its licentiousness has separated the procreative act from its proper context, creating incredible tension in society and much hatred and selfishness. Where married life is meant by God to be the natural and beautiful release for this tension, society today is attacking this institution, leaving in its wake much hatred, discouragement and despair. The solution, of course, is to keep inviting Christ to the marriage. We do this by living according to His laws and fulfilling our religious duties toward Him.

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